

Rule 116 Amendment dated April 7, 2004
Attorney Docket No. 3488-018

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the subject application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of injecting a drug into a patient through a needle having a lumen comprising the steps of:
advancing said needle into the tissue linearly along a longitudinal axis of the needle;
simultaneously rotating the needle along its longitudinal axis by 180 degrees to reduce deflection of the needle; and
injecting the drug.
2. (Currently Cancelled)
3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said simultaneous rotation is a bidirectional rotation whereby the needle is rotated in a first direction and then in a second direction.
4. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein the needle is returned to its original angular orientation after each rotation.
5. (Currently Cancelled)

6. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein said needle is advanced at a rate of 2-4 mm/sec during said rotation.

7. (Currently Amended) A method of administering drug to a patient comprising the steps on:

providing a needle associated with a drug supply, said needle having an elongated shaft, a lumen and a beveled tip with an exit point communicating with said lumen; said drug being selectively forced from said drug supply through said lumen and out of said exit point;

advancing said needle along a longitudinal axis of the needle through the patient's soft tissue until a predetermined site is reached; and

simultaneously rotating said needle by 180 degrees about said longitudinal axis during said advancing to said predetermined position to prevent said needle from being deflected;

wherein said rotating includes rotating said needle first on a first direction and then rotating said needle in a second direction opposite said first direction.

8. (Currently Cancelled)

9. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein said rotating includes rotating said needle from said first orientation and then returning said needle to said first orientation.

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10. (Currently Cancelled)
11. (Currently Cancelled)
12. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein said needle is rotated cyclically several times as said needle is advanced.
13. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein said needle is rotated manually.